



Attorney Docket No. FL/128

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Banter et al.

Serial No.: 09/348,416

Filed: July 7, 1999

For: Acoustic Protective Cover Assembly

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on July 6, 2000

Beverly F. McLennan
Beverly F. McLennan

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

July 6, 2000
(date of mailing document)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 10 and 12 as follows:

1. (amended) A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, comprising:
- (a) a microporous membrane supported around its periphery by at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said membrane is free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having [(a) a microporous membrane having first and second surfaces and a perimeter defined by its edges; and
 - (b) a support system having first and second surfaces and an outer perimeter and an inner perimeter;
 - wherein the first surface of the support system is bonded to the perimeter of the first surface of the microporous membrane to form a bonded outer region within the perimeter and, surrounded by the bonded outer region, an unbounded inner region;
 - wherein the membrane is free to move independently in response to acoustic energy passing therethrough, and thereby minimally attenuating the acoustic energy;
 - wherein the assembly has] an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and [no more than a 3 dB] an overall

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